Bicycle trail update

To the editor:

At last Thursday's Heritage Trail meeting, it became clear that we are still falling short of the local match for the $1.5 million in grant money we have received.

For future expansion projects, we will be asking the public to donate money to help cover the local contribution. For now, we are asking you to show your support for this portion of the trail, from the end of the current Apple Blossom Trail to Pentoga Park, by contacting your county commissioner or by attending the county commissioners' meeting, held at the Courthouse on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 1:30 p.m.

-s- Robert Rafferty
Friends of the Heritage Trail
Iron River

More input needed

To the editor:

During public comment at the regular meeting of the Iron County Board of Commissioners on Dec. 13, 2011, I reiterated my opposition to re-designating a portion of park property. Re-designating park property will leave the citizens of this county with less control of their land.

In 2006 an easement was granted across this same "park property." There didn't seem to be a problem then, so why do they trust this civil council? It might be wise to seek a second opinion.

Creating a "rustic camping area" on this portion of park property, which will soon be re-designated, would enable the Parks and Recreation Commission (which has the true authority over parkland, not the County Board), to authorize the construction of an access for the improvement of the park.

The public could use this access, park and walk to the rustic camp sites. This was suggested several times to the County Board. The Park Commission could then authorize a "special use permit" similar to the ones the Forest Service issues for access to private property.

The County Board should have been more accommodating to the public on this issue, both in providing a clear announcement of their intentions, and in holding a hearing during the evening, when a majority could attend.

I feel that the County Board should suspend implementation of the revised Pentoga Park ordinance until all interested parties can have appropriate input.

-s- Richard Sloat
Iron River

Remember our troops

To the editor:

This time of year, we Americans need to remember our nation is still at war. Even though all our troops will be home from Iraq by Christmas, the war against terrorism is still going on in Afghanistan.

People forget al Qaida declared war on us and not just in Afghanistan but all over the world our armed forces are fighting terrorism

So it is very important that if you know of anyone in the armed forces away from home this Christmas, let them and their families know we appreciate and support the sacrifices they are making.

So, write a letter, send an email, a care package, make a phone call. Support organizations and scouts that send gifts, care packages, popcorn and cookies.

We Americans must continue to remember, if it wasn't for the sacrifices of the armed forces and their families, we would not be able to celebrate Christmas in free and open society.

-s- Don Wolf
Iron River